

COMBINED STATISTICAL AREAS

Background Information and List of Areas that Qualify for Optional Combinations

Combined Statistical Areas are groupings of adjacent Metropolitan and/or Micropolitan Statistical Areas that have social and economic ties as measured by commuting, but at lower levels than are found among counties within Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Combined Statistical Areas can be characterized as representing larger regions that reflect broader social and economic interactions, as well as lower levels of daily commuting interaction not identified by individual Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Under Section 8 of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (available on the OMB website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html#ms>), a Combined Statistical Area qualifies to be identified when two adjacent Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas have an employment interchange measure (EIM) of at least 15. (The EIM is defined as the sum of the percentage of employed residents of the smaller area who work in the larger area and the percentage of employment in the smaller area that is accounted for by workers who reside in the larger area.) Combined Statistical Areas will automatically be created for adjacent areas that have an EIM of 25 or more. Combinations for areas with EIMs of at least 15 but less than 25 will be created only if local opinion in **both** areas favors their creation. Please note that each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area that combines to form a Combined Statistical Area also retains its own Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area designation.

Local opinion, as used in the standards, is the reflection of the views of the public and is obtained by OMB contacting the appropriate congressional delegations. OMB relies on the congressional delegations to solicit comments from appropriate county and municipal governing bodies, local elected officials, and others concerned with the areas, such as business leaders, chambers of commerce, and area planning agencies, to arrive at a consensus. In the absence of a consensus on an optional combination, OMB will not designate a Combined Statistical Area.

OMB establishes and maintains the definitions of Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Combined Statistical Areas solely for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for a consistent set of geographic areas. Hence, Federal statistical data are available for the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and for the Combined Statistical Areas. These statistical areas are not developed for administering funding programs. We are aware, however, that Combined Statistical Areas, for example, are being used in the programs of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of Personnel Management.

OMB Bulletin No. 08-01 provides the most recent update on the statistical area definitions and is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/index.html>.

The following is a list of the pairs of Metropolitan and/or Micropolitan statistical areas that qualify for optional combinations, but so far local opinion, as expressed through the congressional delegations for these areas, has not requested the designation. The list is alphabetized by title of the larger area of the pair which appears in the first column.

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Pairs of metropolitan statistical areas and/or micropolitan statistical areas (core based statistical areas) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia that qualified to optionally combine, but have not done so.				
Metro=metropolitan statistical area, Micro=micropolitan statistical area.				
Titles of CBSAs are based on November 2007 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions.				
Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) 1 Title	CBSA 1 Status	CBSA 2 Title	CBSA 2 Status	Notes
Akron, OH	Metro	Canton--Massillon, OH	Metro	
Albuquerque, NM	Metro	Grants, NM	Micro	
Allentown--Bethlehem--Easton, PA-NJ	Metro	East Stroudsburg, PA	Micro	East Stroudsburg, PA also qualifies to optionally combine with the New York--Northern New Jersey--Long Island, NY--NJ--PA metro area;
				East Stroudsburg, PA may combine with only one area.
Amarillo, TX	Metro	Borger, TX	Micro	
Ann Arbor, MI	Metro	Adrian, MI	Micro	
Anniston--Oxford, AL	Metro	Talladega--Sylacauga, AL	Micro	Talladega--Sylacauga, AL also qualifies to optionally combine with the Birmingham--Hoover, AL metro area; Talladega--Sylacauga, AL may combine with only one area.
Atlanta--Sandy Springs--Marietta, GA	Metro	Calhoun, GA	Micro	Calhoun, GA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Dalton, GA metro area; Calhoun, GA may combine with only one area.
Atlantic City--Hammonton, NJ	Metro	Ocean City, NJ	Metro	
Auburn, IN	Micro	Angola, IN	Micro	
Baltimore--Towson, MD	Metro	Easton, MD	Micro	
Baton Rouge, LA	Metro	Hammond, LA	Micro	Hammond, LA also qualifies to optionally combine with the New Orleans--Metairie--Kenner, LA metro area; Hammond, LA may combine with only one area.
Beaver Dam, WI	Micro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI	Micro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI also qualifies to optionally combine with either the Madison, WI or Milwaukee--Waukesha--West Allis, WI metro areas; Watertown--Fort Atkinson may combine with only one area.
Birmingham--Hoover, AL	Metro	Talladega--Sylacauga, AL	Micro	Talladega--Sylacauga, AL also qualifies to optionally combine with the Anniston--Oxford, AL metro area; Talladega--Sylacauga, AL may combine with only one area.
Bloomington, IN	Metro	Bedford, IN	Micro	
Boise City--Nampa, ID	Metro	Mountain Home, ID	Micro	
Boise City--Nampa, ID	Metro	Ontario, OR--ID	Micro	
Boston--Cambridge--Quincy, MA--NH	Metro	Barnstable Town, MA	Metro	
Burlington--South Burlington, VT	Metro	Barre, VT	Micro	
Canton--Massillon, OH	Metro	New Philadelphia--Dover, OH	Micro	

Cape Coral--Fort Myers, FL	Metro	Naples--Marco Island, FL	Metro	
Charleston--North Charleston--Summerville, SC	Metro	Walterboro, SC	Micro	
Chattanooga, TN--GA	Metro	Dalton, GA	Metro	
Chattanooga, TN--GA	Metro	Scottsboro, AL	Micro	
Chattanooga, TN--GA	Metro	Summerville, GA	Micro	Summerville, GA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Rome, GA metro area; Summerville, GA may combine with only area.
Chicago--Naperville--Joliet, IL--IN--WI	Metro	Ottawa--Streator, IL	Micro	
Chicago--Naperville--Joliet, IL--IN--WI	Metro	Whitewater, WI	Micro	Whitewater, WI also qualifies to optionally combine with the Milwaukee--Waukesha--West Allis, WI metro area; Whitewater, WI may combine with only one area.
Cincinnati--Middletown, OH-KY-IN	Metro	Maysville, KY	Micro	
Cleveland, MS	Micro	Indianola, MS	Micro	
Cleveland--Elyria--Mentor, OH	Metro	Sandusky, OH	Metro	
Columbia, MO	Metro	Moberly, MO	Micro	
Columbia, SC	Metro	Orangeburg, SC	Micro	
Columbia, TN	Micro	Lewisburg, TN	Micro	
Columbus, IN	Metro	Seymour, IN	Micro	
Columbus, OH	Metro	Bellefontaine, OH	Micro	
Columbus, OH	Metro	Zanesville, OH	Micro	
Corning, NY	Micro	Elmira, NY	Metro	
Corpus Christi, TX	Metro	Alice, TX	Micro	
Dallas--Fort Worth--Arlington, TX	Metro	Corsicana, TX	Micro	
Dallas--Fort Worth--Arlington, TX	Metro	Sulphur Springs, TX	Micro	
Dalton, GA	Metro	Calhoun, GA	Micro	Calhoun, GA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Atlanta--Sandy Spring--Marietta, GA metro area; Calhoun, GA may combine with only one area.
Davenport--Moline--Rock Island, IA--IL	Metro	Clinton, IA	Micro	
Davenport--Moline--Rock Island, IA--IL	Metro	Muscatine, IA	Micro	
Dayton, OH	Metro	Sidney, OH	Micro	
Des Moines--West Des Moines, IA	Metro	Ames, IA	Metro	
Durham, NC	Metro	Sanford, NC	Micro	
Easton, MD	Micro	Cambridge, MD	Micro	
El Paso, TX	Metro	Las Cruces, NM	Metro	
Elkhart--Goshen, IN	Metro	Warsaw, IN	Micro	
Evansville, IN--KY	Metro	Madisonville, KY	Micro	
Fayetteville, NC	Metro	Lumberton, NC	Micro	
Gainesville, GA	Metro	Cornelia, GA	Micro	
Greenville, NC	Metro	Kinston, NC	Micro	
Greenville, NC	Metro	Washington, NC	Micro	
Gulfport--Biloxi, MS	Metro	Picayune, MS	Micro	Picayune, MS also qualifies to optionally combine with the New Orleans--Metairie--Kenner, LA metro area; Picayne, MS may combine with only one area.
Hagerstown--Martinsburg, MD--WV	Metro	Chambersburg, PA	Micro	
Harrisburg--Carlisle, PA	Metro	York--Hanover, PA	Metro	
Hartford--West Hartford--East Hartford, CT	Metro	Norwich--New London, CT	Metro	
Houston--Sugar Land--Baytown, TX	Metro	Brenham, TX	Micro	

Houston--Sugar Land--Baytown, TX	Metro	El Campo, TX	Micro	
Idaho Falls, ID	Metro	Rexburg, ID	Micro	
Jackson, MS	Metro	Vicksburg, MS	Micro	
Jackson, MS	Metro	Brookhaven, MS	Micro	Brookhaven, MS also qualifies to optionally combine with the McComb, MS
				micro area; Brookhaven, MS may combine with only one area.
Jackson, TN	Metro	Brownsville, TN	Micro	Brownsville, TN also qualifies to optionally combine with the
				Memphis, TN--MS--AR metro area; Brownsville, TN may combine with only one area.
Jacksonville, FL	Metro	Palatka, FL	Micro	
Jacksonville, FL	Metro	St. Marys, GA	Micro	
Johnstown, PA	Metro	Somerset, PA	Micro	
Kalamazoo--Portage, MI	Metro	Sturgis, MI	Micro	
Kansas City, MO--KS	Metro	Lawrence, KS	Metro	
Lakeland--Winter Haven, FL	Metro	Wauchula, FL	Micro	
		Lake Havasu City--		
Las Vegas--Paradise, NV	Metro	Kingman, AZ	Metro	
Laurinburg, NC	Micro	Bennettsville, SC	Micro	
Madison, WI	Metro	Monroe, WI	Micro	
Madison, WI	Metro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI	Micro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI also qualifies to optionally combine with either the
				Beaver Dam, WI micro area or the Milwaukee--Waukesha--West Allis, WI metro area;
				Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI may combine with only one area.
Mansfield, OH	Metro	Ashland, OH	Micro	
Marion--Herrin, IL	Micro	Carbondale, IL	Micro	
Marshfield--Wisconsin Rapids, WI	Micro	Stevens Point, WI	Micro	
McAllen--Edinburg--Mission, TX	Metro	Rio Grande City--Roma, TX	Micro	
McComb, MS	Micro	Brookhaven, MS	Micro	Brookhaven, MS also qualifies to optionally combine with the Jackson, MS
				metro area; Brookhaven, MS may combine with only one area.
Medford, OR	Metro	Grants Pass, OR	Micro	
Memphis, TN--MS--AR	Metro	Brownsville, TN	Micro	Brownsville, TN also qualifies to optionally combine with the Jackson, TN metro area;
				Brownsville, TN may combine with only one area.
Memphis, TN--MS--AR	Metro	Clarksdale, MS	Micro	
Memphis, TN--MS--AR	Metro	Forrest City, AR	Micro	
Miami--Fort Lauderdale--Pompano Beach, FL	Metro	Port St. Lucie, FL	Metro	
Milwaukee--Waukesha--West Allis, WI	Metro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI	Micro	Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI also qualifies to optionally combine with either the
				Madison, WI metro area or the Beaver Dam, WI micro area;
				Watertown--Fort Atkinson, WI may combine with only one area.
Milwaukee--Waukesha--West Allis, WI	Metro	Whitewater, WI	Micro	Whitewater, WI also qualifies to optionally combine with the
				Chicago--Naperville--Joliet, IL--IN--WI metro area; Whitewater, WI may combine
				with only one area.
Modesto, CA	Metro	Merced, CA	Metro	
Monroe, LA	Metro	Ruston, LA	Micro	
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	Metro	Shelbyville, TN	Micro	
New Bern, NC	Micro	Morehead City, NC	Micro	
New Orleans--Metairie--Kenner, LA	Metro	Hammond, LA	Micro	Hammond, LA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Baton Rouge, LA
				metro area; Hammond, LA may combine with only one area.

New Orleans--Metairie--Kenner, LA	Metro	Picayune, MS	Micro	Picayune, MS also qualifies to optionally combine with the Gulfport--Biloxi, MS metro area; Picayune, MS may combine with only one area.
New York--Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY--NJ--PA	Metro	East Stroudsburg, PA	Micro	East Stroudsburg, PA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Allentown--Bethlehem--Easton, PA--NJ metro area; East Stroudsburg, PA may combine with only one area.
Olympia, WA	Metro	Centralia, WA	Micro	
Philadelphia--Camden--Wilmington, PA--NJ--DE--MD	Metro	Atlantic City, NJ	Metro	
Philadelphia--Camden--Wilmington, PA--NJ--DE--MD	Metro	Dover, DE	Metro	Dover, DE also qualifies to optionally combine with the Seaford, DE micro area; Dover, DE may combine with only one area.
Pittsburgh, PA	Metro	Indiana, PA	Micro	
Port St. Lucie, FL	Metro	Okeechobee, FL	Micro	
Portland--Vancouver--Beaverton, OR--WA	Metro	Longview, WA	Metro	
Pullman, WA	Micro	Moscow, ID	Micro	
Punta Gorda, FL	Metro	Arcadia, FL	Micro	
Quincy, IL--MO	Micro	Hannibal, MO	Micro	
Raleigh--Cary, NC	Metro	Henderson, NC	Micro	
Rapid City, SD	Metro	Spearfish, SD	Micro	
Redding, CA	Metro	Red Bluff, CA	Micro	
Reno--Sparks, NV	Metro	Carson City, NV	Metro	
Richmond, IN	Micro	Connersville, IN	Micro	
Rochelle, IL	Micro	Dixon, IL	Micro	Dixon, IL also qualifies to optionally combine with the Sterling, IL micro area; Dixon, IL may combine with only one area.
Rochester, MN	Metro	Austin, MN	Micro	
Rocky Mount, NC	Metro	Wilson, NC	Micro	
Rome, GA	Metro	Summerville, GA	Micro	Summerville, GA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Chatanooga, TN--GA metro area; Summerville, GA may combine with only one area.
Salem, OR	Metro	Albany--Lebanon, OR	Micro	
Salt Lake City, UT	Metro	Provo--Orem, UT	Metro	
Sandusky, OH	Metro	Norwalk, OH	Micro	
Santa Fe, NM	Metro	Las Vegas, NM	Micro	
Santa Fe, NM	Metro	Los Alamos, NM	Micro	
Savannah, GA	Metro	Statesboro, GA	Micro	
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	Metro	Bloomsburg--Berwick, PA	Micro	Bloomsburg--Berwick, PA also qualifies to optionally combine with the Sunbury, PA micro area; Bloomsburg--Berwick, PA may combine with only one area.
Seaford, DE	Micro	Dover, DE	Metro	Dover, DE also qualifies to optionally combine with the Philadelphia--Camden--Wilmington, PA--NJ--DE--MD metro area; Dover, DE may combine with only one area.
Sherman--Denison, TX	Metro	Durant, OK	Micro	
South Bend--Mishawaka, IN--MI	Metro	Niles--Benton Harbor, MI	Metro	
Spokane, WA	Metro	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Metro	
Springfield, IL	Metro	Jacksonville, IL	Micro	
Springfield, IL	Metro	Lincoln, IL	Micro	
Springfield, IL	Metro	Taylorville, IL	Micro	

St. Louis, MO--IL	Metro	Centralia, IL	Micro	
State College, PA	Metro	DuBois, PA	Micro	
Sterling, IL	Micro	Dixon, IL	Micro	Dixon, IL also qualifies to optionally combine with the Rochelle, IL micro area;
				Dixon, IL may combine with only one area.
Sunbury, PA	Micro	Bloomsburg--Berwick, PA	Micro	Bloomsburg--Berwick also qualifies to optionally combine with the
				Scranton--Wilkes--Barre, PA metro area; Bloomsburg--Berwick, PA may combine
				with only one area.
Tucson, AZ	Metro	Nogales, AZ	Micro	
Tulsa, OK	Metro	Muskogee, OK	Micro	
Vicksburg, MS	Micro	Tallulah, LA	Micro	
Virginia Beach--Norfolk--Newport News, VA--NC	Metro	Elizabeth City, NC	Micro	
Virginia Beach--Norfolk--Newport News, VA--NC	Metro	Kill Devil Hills, NC	Micro	
Washington--Arlington--Alexandria, DC--VA--MD--WV	Metro	Hagerstown--Martinsburg, MD--WV	Metro	
Wapakoneta, OH	Micro	Celina, OH	Micro	
Zanesville, OH	Micro	Cambridge, OH	Micro	
Pairings of New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) that qualified to form Combined NECTAs, but have not done so.				
NECTA 1	NECTA 1	NECTA 2	NECTA 2	
	STATUS		STATUS	
Boston--Cambridge--Quincy, MA--NH	Metro	Barnstable Town, MA	Metro	
		Providence--Fall River--		
Boston--Cambridge--Quincy, MA--NH	Metro	Warwick, RI--MA	Metro	
Hartford--West Hartford--East Hartford, CT	Metro	Springfield, MA--CT	Metro	
Leominster--Fitchburg--Gardner, MA	Metro	Athol, MA	Micro	
Manchester, NH	Metro	Concord, NH	Micro	
Norwich--New London, CT--RI	Metro	Willimantic, CT	Micro	
Portland--South Portland--Biddeford, ME	Metro	Brunswick, ME	Micro	